

# Chapter VIII

## Next Steps

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*“We grow produce for people now but we take care of the land for our children. We want them to grow up in a healthy world.”*

*Anna Caruso, Caruso Farms,  
Photovoice 2017*

This Agriculture Resilience Plan for Snohomish County will help ensure the viability of our farmlands into the future. The next step is to continue to work together as an agricultural community to implement the actions included in this Plan. The Steering Committee recognizes that these actions cannot be achieved without **collaboration and partnership**. The needs represented in this plan, therefore, are a starting point for collaborative thinking with partners, communities and government bodies about how we manage our land and our natural resources in a time of changes and uncertainty.

While there are many economic, regulatory and policy factors influencing the success of our local farms, the actions prescribed in this Plan are aimed at ensuring the viability, protection, and resilience of the land itself. These include both county-wide actions and those specific to different reaches of the floodplain. The actions are diverse and include policy changes, re-allocation of tax dollars, landscape-scale project implementation, on-farm resource needs, and continuing research and education.

Through partnerships developed as part of the **Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS)**, the farming community in Snohomish County hopes to find mutually beneficial solutions to managing our natural resources for agricultural resilience, salmon habitat recovery, and flood protection. The newly launched Integration Team is an SLS initiative that brings partners together to develop packages of projects and actions that support these multiple interests as well as procure funding to support project implementation. We hope that both the technical information provided through this planning effort as well as the identification of prioritized agricultural needs will help further this collaborative approach to land management.

A working appendix to this Plan will be the **Project List** that is continually refined and adapted to reflect the changing needs of the agricultural landscape and the collaborative process facilitated by the Integration Team to develop innovative, landscape-scale solutions to community resilience.

***“This is farmer led. This is not a plan that’s going to sit on a shelf somewhere. It’s a plan that’s going to lead to action to help real farmers with real concerns.”***

*Karen Wolden-Fuentes, Hazel Blue Acres Farm*